

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by Nicollini et al. (U.S. 5,668,494) taken in view of Yan (U.S. 5,399,986). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by the aforementioned references to Nicollini and Yan taken further in view of Bret (U.S. 6,400,541).

Claims 5-10 stand allowed, and claims 12-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being otherwise allowable.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4 and 12, and has amended claim 11 to include the subject matter of canceled claim 12. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 11.

Since the only claims remaining in this application are those indicated as being allowed, or as containing allowable subject matter, no detailed discussion of the cited prior art is believed to be necessary.

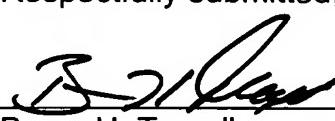
Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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